

105 years, and I am pleased to call the attention of this body of Congress to the many contributions the bakery has made to the Pueblo community.

Otto Zoelsmann and his wife immigrated to the United States from Germany in the late 1800's. In 1898, the couple moved to Pueblo, where they opened a bakery. The Zoelsmann's were expert bakers and their delicacies were immediately popular throughout the Pueblo community. Horse drawn wagons, and later Ford Model T trucks, initially delivered the baked goods to Zoelsmann's loyal customers.

Aside from technological advancements, little about Zoelsmann's Bakery has changed over the years. The bakery is still dedicated to creating and selling the best baked goods possible. The current co-owners, the Petkoseks and the Paradisos, along with their staff, always serve their customers with a kind word and a friendly smile.

The Petkoseks and Paradisos took over the store after its longtime owner Chuck Martinelli retired. Chuck was a beloved figure in Pueblo and a master chef. Chuck handpicked his successors and, before retiring, he taught them his trade and entrusted them with his famous recipes. Chuck's memory lives on with Zoelsmann's Bakery as it goes about its business each day.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Zoelsmann's Bakery. The bakery is entering its second century of dedicated service to the people of Colorado and I am pleased to call attention to Zoelsmann's contributions to the community of Pueblo.

H.R. 1813, THE TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1813, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003.

Torture is a horrible tool used in more than 150 countries to silence, intimidate and oppress people around the world. Many survivors of torture arrive in the United States every year. This legislation provides vital funding of support for victims of torture.

Mr. Speaker, more than 500,000 survivors of torture live in the United States today. A significant number of these survivors live in New York City. These survivors need vital support in terms of rehabilitation, medical care and psychological care. Fleeing from their persecutors, most often leaving their families behind, they arrive with no documentary evidence to prove their persecution. All they have are their scarred bodies and their stories of horror.

Once they arrive, the survivors are forced to face a culture and a system different from what they have known. They face numerous challenges in their effort to integrate into our society and become fully participating members. They have difficulty telling their stories to the immigration officers and even to their own attorneys because of the abuse they have endured by those in power in the past and thus are wary of authorities. Among the few they

can turn to are the torture treatment programs. These programs, armed with experience and dedication, are instrumental in helping survivors document their stories of torture, providing them with clinical care and psychosocial support, and enabling them to embark on a new life.

The life-saving work done by these torture treatment programs should be commended and appreciated by all Americans, for they open their doors, extend their hands, and offer shoulders to the most severely wounded new Americans. It is my pleasure today to commend the indispensable work of the Safe Horizon/Solace Program for Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma in my district. Solace is a program of Safe Horizon, which is the nation's leading victim assistance and advocacy organization. Solace is a decentralized, city-wide program, with its main offices in Jackson Heights, Queens. Since 1997, Solace has provided an array of services on behalf of torture survivors from over 70 different countries, including intensive case management, clinical, referral for medical and legal, social adjustment counseling, accompaniment, interpretation, information and referral, medical and psychological evaluations, expressive therapies such as visual and dramatic arts, dance, and somatic therapies such as massage, for survivors of torture seeking safe haven in the United States.

Furthermore, Solace has pioneered a community development approach that involves creating social healing interventions at the familial and communal levels, particularly important since torture seeks to destroy the fabric of communities, as much as it seeks to destroy individuals.

The Safe Horizon/Solace approach is also extremely cost effective, since Solace is the managing partner of the Metro Area Support for Survivors of Torture (MASST) Consortium, which includes Doctors of the World/USA, Refuge, Inc., and the International Institute of New Jersey as partners. This New York City and Northern New Jersey effort is all done on one grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, and is the only such configuration in the United States. This past year, the MASST Consortium has reached thousands of people with a dizzying array of services.

The funds provided by the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003 will enable torture treatment programs like Safe Horizon/Solace and its MASST partners to continue to provide the crucial services needed by those who have been subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment in their own countries.

Mr. Speaker, we may not have the opportunity to know when we meet the survivors of torture, to listen to first hand and understand their stories, or to appreciate the courage they exhibit in overcoming the consequences of the traumatic events they have experienced. But we do have the opportunity to assist them today. By supporting this important legislation, we can play an important part in providing care for this resilient group of people. We can give them hope for a better future. We will be instrumental in helping them break down the barriers that keep them from fully integrating into our society.

I strongly encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this statement for the record and regret that I was unavoidably detained on my way to the floor on November 21, 2003 to vote on rollcall vote Number 636, on H.R. 3491, the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

A BILL TO IMPROVE THE LIQUIDITY OF THE MARKET FOR INVESTMENTS IN LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT PROPERTIES

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today Representatives NANCY JOHNSON (R-CT), CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) and RICHARD NEAL (D-MA) are joining me in introducing legislation to correct a problem that is impairing the liquidity of the market for investments in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (housing credit) properties. The housing credit has been a remarkably successful incentive for encouraging investment in residential rental housing for low-income families. Under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, a tax credit is available for investment in affordable housing. The credit is claimed annually over a period of ten years. Qualified residential rental projects must be rented to lower-income households at controlled rents and satisfy a number of other requirements throughout a prescribed compliance period (generally, 15 years from the first taxable year the credit is claimed).

Today, virtually all of the equity for housing credit investments comes from widely held corporations investing through housing credit funds. A significant number of corporate investors have transferred these fund interests in recent years, typically due to a change in their income tax status. An investor wishing to dispose of an interest in a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit ("housing credit") property during its 15-year compliance period is subject to a recapture of housing credits previously claimed unless a bond or U.S. Treasury securities are posted to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The amount of the bond to be posted is based on the amount of housing credits claimed and the duration remaining in the compliance period. The purpose of the bond is to guarantee to the IRS that it can collect the appropriate recapture amount in the event that the property is no longer in compliance with the requirements of the housing credit program.

At the time the housing credit program was enacted in 1986, the drafters of the statute were concerned that owners would claim the benefits of the tax credits and then avoid the continuing compliance requirements by transferring the credits to a straw party with minimal assets that the IRS could go after to collect recapture liability. This was a potential